

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HITCHINS et al.

Serial No.: 09/436,612

Filed: November 9, 1999

For: PLUNGER SYSTEMS

Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: John D. Yasko, Jr.

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

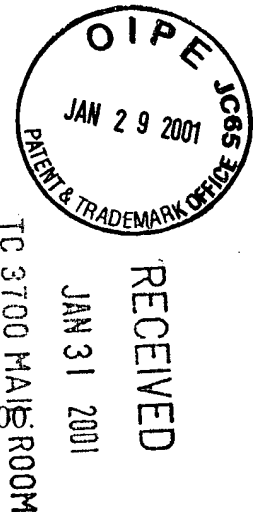
Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Election Requirement mailed on October 31, 2000.

I. Election Requirement

The Election Requirement required election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following distinct species of the invention: Figure 1A; Figure 1B; Figure 6A; Figure 6B; Figure 11; Figure 12A; Figure 15 and Figure 17. Nevertheless, because the present claims are generally directed to the plunger concept shown in Figures 11-13C, Applicants submit that the claims may be better characterized as being directed to the following single species: Figures 11-13C. This characterization of Figures 11-13C is supported by the specification, starting on page 21, line 21, wherein Figures 11-13C are described together and include the same reference numerals.



If the above characterization meets with the Examiner's approval, in response to the Election Requirement Applicants will elect the species of Figures 11-13C with traverse. Further, Applicants submit that the following pending claims are readable on the species of Figures 11-13C: Claims 1-20.

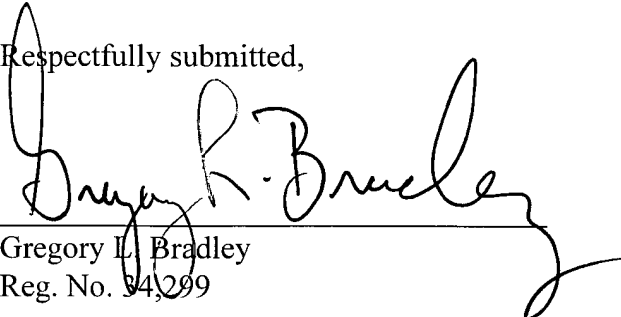
II. Generic Claims

Applicants submit that pending claims 1-20 are currently generic to the species of Figures 11-13C.

If there are any outstanding issues that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (412) 767-2400 x3021.

Dated: January 25, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



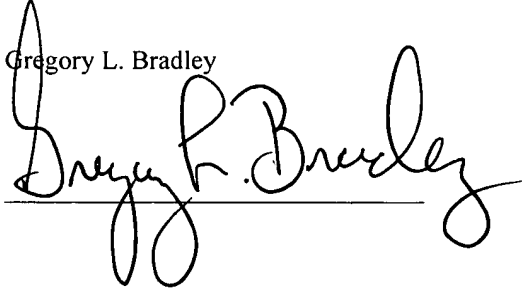
Gregory L. Bradley
Reg. No. 34,299

Medrad, Inc.
One Medrad Drive
Indianola, PA 15051
Telephone: (412) 767-2400 x3021

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on January 25, 2001, with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Gregory L. Bradley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gregory L. Bradley", written over a horizontal line.

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JAN 31 2001
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